

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A sliding bone support plate assembly comprises at least first and second  
plates which slide with respect to each other, varying the length of the plate  
assembly by plate-on-plate sliding after bone screws mount the plate assembly to  
vertebrae in a recipient. The plates comprise cooperating sliding structures which  
cooperate with each other to interconnect the plates to each other and to facilitate  
sliding movement of the plates with respect to each other. Such sliding  
10 accommodates varying the length of the plate assembly, and relieving stress which  
would otherwise be imposed on the plate assembly by post-procedural settling of  
respective vertebrae to which the plates are mounted without requiring any  
movement of a plate with respect to a bone to which that plate is mounted. The  
plate assembly is fabricated using bio-compatible, bio-stable materials which are safe  
for extended use in a living human, and which are not generally assimilated.